

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Passport Participants 2008

New Mexico

Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center, Pilar
Aztec Ruins National Monument, Aztec
NPS Old Santa Fe Trail Building, Santa Fe
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Offices:
Santa Fe, Taos, Farmington (La Plata Highway)

Colorado

Anasazi Heritage Visitor Center, Dolores
San Juan Public Lands Center, Durango
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve
Colorado National Monument
BLM Field Offices: Saguache, Grand Junction, Gunnison,
Uncompaghe (Montrose), Dolores
(Mancos Highway), Columbine (Durango)

Arizona

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Navajo National Monument
Pipe Spring National Monument

Utah

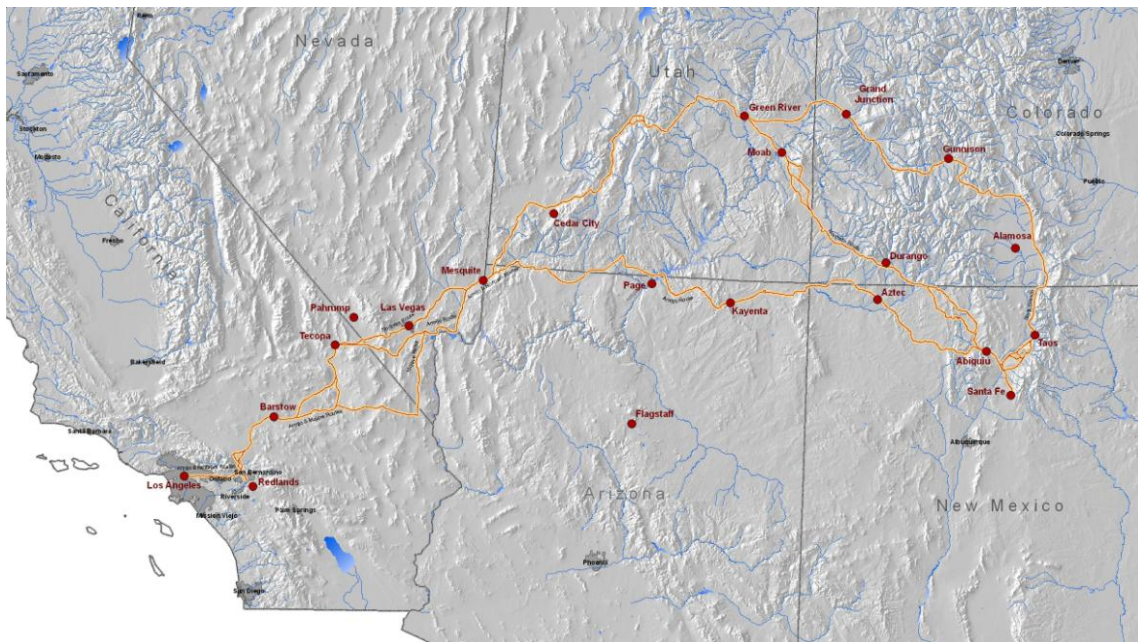
Moab Information Center, Moab
Kanab Visitor Center, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Big Water Visitor Center, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Arches National Park, Moab
BLM Field Offices: Moab, Kanab, Cedar City, St. George, Monticello,
Richfield
John Wesley Powell River History Museum, Green River

Nevada

BLM Field Office, Las Vegas
Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

California

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument
Mohave National Preserve
BLM Field Office, Barstow
Desert Discovery Center, Barstow
Mohave River Valley Museum, Barstow



The Old Spanish National Historic Trail was designated as part of the National Trails System in 2002. The trail connected New Mexico's frontier colonies to their counterparts in southern California in the early 19th century.

There was money to be made in transporting New Mexico serapes and other woolen goods to Los Angeles, and in wrangling California-bred horses and mules back to Santa Fe. But a viable overland route across the remote deserts and mountains of Mexico's far northern frontier had to be found. Spain's colonists had sought an overland route between New Mexico and California for more than 50 years.

Mexican trader Antonio Armijo led the first commercial caravan from Abiquiú, New Mexico, to Los Angeles late in 1829. Over the next 20 years, Mexican and American traders traveled variants of the route that Armijo pioneered, frequently trading with Indian tribes along the way.

The complex network known today as the Old Spanish Trail evolved from a combination of indigenous footpaths, early trade and exploration routes, and good pasture and water for the pack trains and stock drives. After the United States took control of the Southwest in 1848, other routes to California emerged, and use of the Old Spanish Trail sharply declined.

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